

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 are pending in the present application.

Ex Parte Quayle

The Examiner has indicated in the communication of October 29, 2003 that prosecution on the merits is closed and the application is ready for allowance if a period is placed at the end of claim 18. Claim 18 has been amended accordingly.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections of record, and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact T. Benjamin Schroeder (Registration No. 50,990) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/637,067

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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